

App. No. 10/731,274

Amendment Dated _____

Reply to Office Action of May 1, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application. Claims 1-28 stand rejected. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Claims 1, 10, 19 have been amended to clarify an ambiguity, if any, with respect to what "one of" modifies. The inserted "or" can be viewed as inclusive, meaning "and/or." No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6, 9, 19-24, and 26-28 under 35 USC § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action also states that there is no functional relationship imparted by the data (the claimed computer-executable components) to a computing device and that the claim describes software per se recorded on memory.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Beauregard-type claims are clearly patentable subject matter. Examination guidelines for patentable subject matter describe "functional descriptive material" consisting of data structures and computer programs which impart functionality when employed as a computer component. In determining whether the claim is for a "practical application," the focus is not on whether the steps taken to achieve a particular result are useful, tangible and concrete, but rather that the final result is "useful, tangible and concrete."

Generally, it is appreciated that users often record software per se on computer-readable media because the software provides results that are useful, tangible and concrete. More

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specifically, one such possible result is efficiently handling a variety of protection settings and editing rights when transforming a document into an ML format. The editing rights provide the user with the ability to control edits to various parts of a document and thus provides useful, tangible, and concrete results.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 6-10, 15-19, and 25-28 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,557,722 ("DeRose"). The Office Action argues that with respect to claims 1, 10, and 19 DeRose teaches col. 7, line 14 through col. 30, line 18(which is the entire detailed description and claims of the patent) editing electronic documents. Applicants object to the citation as failing to meet the requirements of 37 CFR 1.104(c)(2), which states in relevant part:

In rejecting claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the examiner must cite the best references at his or her command. When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant, the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified.

Because citing columns 7 through 30 is not designating the particular portion relied upon as nearly as practical, applicants object to the citation.

Applicants also object to the citation for the SGML to encode start and end tags (see, for example, claim 1 rejection, fourth component) because the citation spans column 7 through column 30.

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Notwithstanding the above, DeRose generally discloses "rendering" (see, Title and abstract) of electronic documents, rather than "editing." DeRose teaches in col. 8, lines 39 *et seq.* that the preferred embodiment of the present invention provides the capability for **rendering** documents which comply with the SGML standard (emphasis added). Thus the teaching of the use of tags (see below) is in the context of rendering, rather than editing, electronic documents.

With respect to claim 1, applicants traverse the rejection because DeRose fails to disclose or suggest "a second component that is arranged to define a first location for the start of an editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is desired and to define a second location for the end of the editable object region." In particular, DeRose fails to disclose that the tags in the descriptive markup (in an editable object region) can include attributes for requiring "a level of editing permission for a specific user." Instead, DeRose merely discloses that a start tag 45 may include attributes that can be examined for security reasons, such as whether to prevent or modify the display (i.e., rendering) of the document (see col. 9, line 2 *et seq.*). Thus the disclosure in DeRose regarding tags for document does not teach or suggest implementing different levels of editing permission, but merely teaches how to display the tagged items in a previously existing SGML document.

In addition, DeRose fails to disclose "a user identifier for the specific user" to be associated with the editable object region. DeRose instead discloses "a unique identifier." The unique identifier of DeRose is, for example, "an element identifier," which is used as a representation of a document to facilitate the retrieval of elements or as a identification of elements to generate a table contents (See col. 4, line 42 through col. 5, line 5). Accordingly,

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there is no teaching or suggesting that the element identifier identifies a specific user, to which levels of potential editing capabilities apply. Thus, DeRose fails to disclose or suggest "a user identifier" of claim 1.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable because DeRose does not disclose or suggest a level of editing permission for a specific user to edit a region that is defined by the first and second locations; or a user identifier for the specific user associated with the defined region.

With respect to claim 10, DeRose fails to disclose or suggest "defining a first location for the start of an editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is desired and to define a second location for the end of the editable object region" and "a user identifier for the specific user" to be associated with the editable object region. As discussed above, the cited art in general relates to rendering documents, rather than editing, and does not include user identifiers for specific users. Thus, claim 10 is allowable.

With respect to claim 19, DeRose fails to disclose or suggest "an editor that is arranged to define a first location for the start of an editable object region for which a level of editing permission for a specific user is desired and to define a second location for the end of the editable object region" and "a user identifier for the specific user" to be associated with the editable object region. As discussed above, the cited art in general relates to rendering documents, rather than editing, and does not include user identifiers for specific users. Thus claim 19 is allowable.

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Regarding claims 6-9, 15-18, and 25-28, these claims are directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, 10, or 19. Therefore claims 6-9, 15-18, and 25-28 are patentable over DeRose for at least the reasons by which the claims from which they depend are allowable.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 21, and 22 under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over DeRose in view of Ayers, L., "AbiWord's Potential," Linux Gazette, Issue 43, July 1999 ("Ayers"), downloaded by the examiner on December 20, 2005, from: www.linuxgazette.com/issue43/ayers.html, downloaded pages 1-4.

Claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 21, and 22 are directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, 10, or 19. As discussed above regarding claim 1, 10, and 19, DeRose fails to teach or suggest a level of editing permission for a specific user to edit a region that is defined by the first and second locations; or a user identifier for the specific user associated with the defined region. Thus, applicants believe that claims 2, 3, 11, 12, 21, and 22 are patentable over DeRose in view of Ayers at least the reasons by which the claims from which they depend are allowable.

The Office Action also rejected claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23, and 24 under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over DeRose in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,119,136 ("Takata"). These claims are directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, 10, or 19. As discussed above regarding claim 1, 10, and 19, DeRose fails to teach or suggest a level of editing permission for a specific user to edit a region that is defined by the first and second locations; or a user identifier for the specific user associated with the defined region. Takata merely discusses spreadsheets

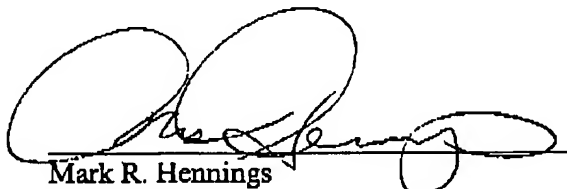
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for creating HTML documents. Thus, DeRose and Takata, either singly or in motivated combination do not render the rejected claims as being obvious. Accordingly, applicants believe that claims 4, 5, 13, 14, 23, and 24 are patentable over DeRose in view of Takata at least the reasons by which the claims from which they depend are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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